objectives of economic growth with enhancement of human well being as laid down in the Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan.

North Eastern States are categorized as Special Category States and 90% of the Plan assistance to these States is provided as grants.

In addition, all the Central Ministries/Departments (except those specifically exempted) earmark at least 10% of their budget for sectoral developmental programmes in the North Eastern States. The unspent balance of the earmarked funds of the Central Ministries/ Departments is transferred to the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) which is used to reduce the existing Basic Minimum Services/infrastructure gaps in the North Eastern Region.

The North Eastern Council (NEC), also takes up infrastructure development projects in areas such as power, roads and bridges, health, manpower development, etc.

For 2002-03, a total provision of Rs. 3700 crore has been made by various ministries in the Budget for taking up developmental schemes/projects in the North East. NEC has made a Plan provision of Rs. 450 crore for 2002-03.

Under Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources, since 1988-99, Rs. 1346.72 crore have been released to North Eastern States.

These funding sources and quantum of funds broadly take care of the requirement for development programme of the North Eastern States and are intended to continue till the Region reaches a certain minimum level in terms of infrastructure development.

Non-Implementation of Projects of Harnessing Brahmaputra

4075. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non-implementation of projects of harnessing Brahmaputra proposed by Brahmaputra Board when there is a great possibility of power generation, large scale irrigation and big flood control; and

(b) whether considering all these aspects his Ministry would look into it in the greater interest of development in the North Eastern Region and propose to implement it in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Brahmaputra Board had prepared the

Master Plan for long, medium and short term measures for harnessing the water power potential and flood control/moderation. Based on the Master Plan the Brahmaputra Board has taken up survey and investigation for storage reservoir in the major tributaries of the river Brahmaputra as long term measures. Construction of embankment and spurs, etc. is being taken up as the short term measure by the State Flood Control Departrment, Assam.

The reasons for non-implementation or delay in implementation have to do with the condition of the Board as well as with individual projects. The Board had investigated and prepared Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Siang (Dihang) and Subansiri dam projects with proper flood cushion in 1983-84. Subsequently, the Board had to reinvestigate the earlier proposal on the issue of submergence of some important towns and district headquaters raised by the Arunachal Pradesh Government in 1996. It modified the proposal to include three dams for each project at three different sites. Both the projects were handed over to NHPC during May, 2000. Other general reasons for dealy in implementation are problems in land acquisition, geological surprises, security related issues and neglect of the Brahmaputra Board over the years.

During the Tenth Plan Brahmaputra Board propose to take up watershed management, flood management and anti-erosion schemes as well as run-of-the-river schemes. The Brahmaputra Board is preparing DPRS for multipurpose projects of the following tributaries of Brahmaputra:

(i) Debang
(ii) Noa-Dihing
(iii) Lohit
(iv) Kameng
(v) Kulsi

In addition during the Tenth Plan, the Board is implementing the on-going Pagladia multipurpose Project which was approved by the Government of India at an estimated cost of Rs. 542.90 crore. The project is estimated to irrigate 54,160 ha. and flood moderation of 40,000 ha. with small component of power generation (2MW) as incidental benefit.

From Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources 25 flood control schemes at different locations of Brahmaputra and Barak valley are under implementation. Efforts have also been initiated to improve the functioning of the Board.